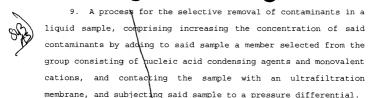
What is claimed is:

- 1. A process for the selective recovery of linear nucleic acids contained in a liquid sample, comprising diluting said liquid sample, contacting the diluted sample with an ultrafiltration membrane, and subjecting said diluted sample to a pressure differential.
- 2. The process of claim 1, wherein said liquid sample is diluted to 1/3 to 1/5 its initial concentration.
- 3. The process of claim 1, wherein said dilution is carried out with a member selected from the group consisting of water, EDTA, trishydrochloride, a mixture of trishydrochloride and sodium EDTA, and trisethylenediaminetriacetic acid.
- The process of claim 1, wherein said linear nucleic acid is double stranded DNA or RNA.
- 5. The process of claim 1, wherein said pressure differential is a constant pressure differential.
- 6. A process for the selective recovery of linear nucleic acids contained in a liquid sample, comprising providing an ultrafiltration membrane having an upstream and a downstream side, contacting said membrane with said liquid sample, and subjecting said liquid sample to a pressure differential having a pressure less than 25 inches Hg
- 7. The process of claim 6, wherein said pressure is about 10 inches  ${\rm Hg}\,.$
- 8. The process of claim 6, wherein said pressure differential is a constant pressure differential.



- 10. The process of claim 9, wherein said nucleic acid condensing agents are selected from the group consisting of manganese, magnesium, hexaminecobalt chloride, spermine, spermadine, and mixtures thereof.
- 11 The process of claim 9, wherein said monovalent cations are selected from the group consisting of sodium, potassium and ammonium.
- 12. The process of claim 9, wherein said pressure differential is a constant pressure differential.
- 13. A process for the selective recovery of linear nucleic cacids contained in a liquid sample, comprising diluting said liquid sample, contacting the diluted sample with an ultrafiltration membrane, and subjecting said diluted sample to a first pressure, followed by subjecting said diluted sample to a second pressure different from said first pressure.